



THE ORYX

The weekly newsletter of Windhoek International School

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Annual General Meeting

The 2020-2021 AGM will be held on **Wednesday 27th January 2021** at 6pm.

There will be the opportunity to stand for election to the Board of Directors as two of the current members are stepping down. Nomination papers will be available from Tuesday 5th January.

Nominations and all supporting documents must be received by the Nominations Committee no later than **Sunday 17th January**.

Please note that only parents whose fees are up to date may (a) stand for election, (b) nominate other parents for election, or (c) vote at the AGM or by proxy. If you are uncertain about your financial status, the Finance Office will be happy to advise you.

Peter MacKenzie

A Message From Ethan Van Drunen



Thank you for your warm welcome to the WIS community. My family and I are thrilled to be joining such a diverse, joyful, and internationally-minded school.

I am writing this on Thanksgiving, a day Americans set aside to take stock of our many blessings. There is no denying that the year 2020 has been challenging for our world, but it has also brought me a renewed sense of appreciation for many things – for family, for health, for gatherings. Like many, I look towards the next year with a sense of new possibility and of hope.

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Dates to Remember

December 2020

- **04:** WIS 30th Birthday Bash
- **09:** End of Term 2
- **10:** Human Rights Day

January 2021

- **01:** New Year's Day
- **08:** Staff Work Day - No school for students
- **11:** Term 3 Starts



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

That sense of possibility is strong in the WIS students and staff I have spoken with, and it is clear that WIS is having a positive impact on Namibia and our world. I am excited to join you in common cause, working together to ensure that students at WIS develop a foundation of skills, values, and dispositions from which will grow a lifetime of creativity and service.

As I count my blessings today, included in the list is the opportunity to do good work at WIS. Thank you for entrusting me with this important responsibility as the next Director. I am someone who listens first, and I look forward to learning from you all as we work together to continuously develop our shared philosophy, dedicated support systems, and an ethos of inclusivity and trust which will underpin everything we will accomplish together.

My family and I are so excited to meet you all in August!

With gratitude,
Ethan

PRIMARY PRINCIPAL

Yesterday was American Thanksgiving. This is the biggest holiday in the USA and one where families try to be together to celebrate. It was the 32nd Thanksgiving I have spent outside of the USA away from family on this holiday. I was reflecting how most of us, whether we are expatriates or from Namibia, have had to adjust and adapt important cultural celebrations in one way or another, due to our family living in another part of the country in Namibia, or further afield.

While I miss being with my family on special occasions and holidays, it gives me pause to think about why the holiday is important and why my family's traditions are what they are. In some ways being away from home has made the holiday more meaningful. I'm not bombarded by the commercialism of the holiday and can focus on the true meaning. I have learned that even though Thanksgiving is celebrated across the USA, the menu might be different from one family to the next, and from one region to the next. What I also have come to appreciate is the opportunity to share my traditions with others who have become my family away from home. I think this is what is special about an international school, especially an IB World School, where open-mindedness and inquiry are encouraged. We respect cultures and the varying traditions different from our own, and celebrate our similarities as well as our differences.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on what we are thankful for. In this time of COVID-19, I'm thankful that school has been opened for an almost normal schedule for this term, when so many schools around the world have remained closed and remote learning prevails. I am thankful for the resilience of the children as they have returned to school with a positive attitude, adhering to the health and safety expectations. I'm thankful for the teachers who continue to put their heart and soul into their lessons and show concern for each child's well-being. Last but not least, I'm thankful for the parents who have supported their children's learning ensuring that together with the teachers the children are not missing out

Regards,
Beth Smith

WIS 30th Anniversary Sports day

In Celebration of the School's 30th Birthday, The Sports Committee will be hosting a Sports Day for the Primary School learners on Friday 4th December. All students need to wear their house t-shirts on the day.

Each grade level from Early Years to Grade 5 will have an extended break. During this "break time," the learners will be engaging in various sport codes, namely The Trail Run, Soccer and Basketball for the older grades.

The games will take place from 7:30 am till 11:00 am. The sections will be divided as follows:

- Early years and Grade 1 7:30 am till 8:30 am
- Grade 2 and Grade 3 8:45 am till 9:45 am
- Grade 4 and Grade 5 10:00am till 11:00 am

From 11:30, there will be soccer games for alumni and secondary students. At 12:00 pm, there will be a group photo.

For our Sports Facilities fundraising, we will provide lunch for the learners at the cost of N\$30.00 for a boerewors roll, packet of chips and juice/water. Follow the [link](#) to make an order. Ice-lollies, water, Simba chips, and muffins will also be on sale on the day.

Sports Committee

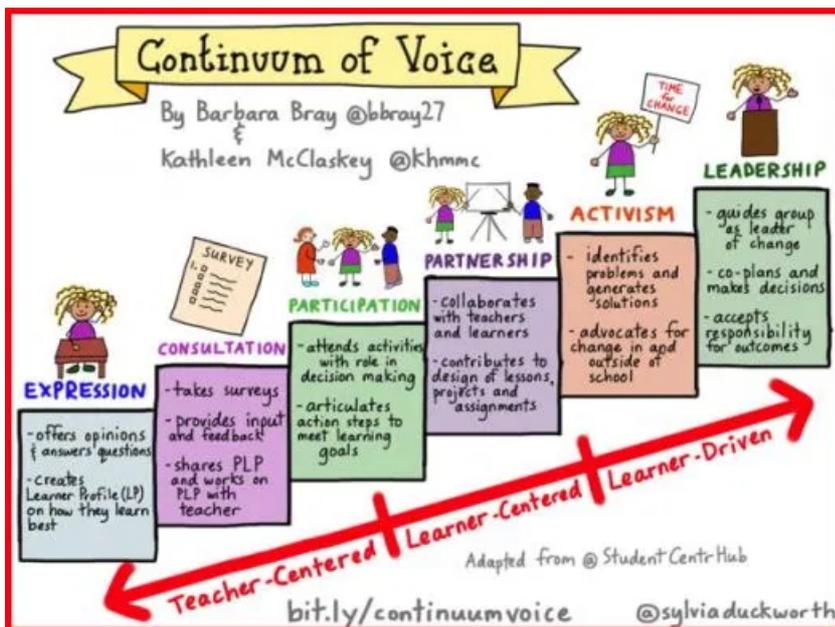
SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

| STUDENT | AGENCY |

What difference can I make in the bigger turn of events?

On Wednesday, some of us voted in the Regional and Local elections here in Namibia. Some weeks ago, the Presidential elections happened in the USA. There is always discussion about voting in an election and how much of a difference one vote can make. And further - how much of a difference can one person make in - conservation, preventing climate change, or addressing social issues of injustice.

It is probably pretty simple - every vote counts, every individual effort counts, every person has a voice. But, in order to make your voice heard, or your vote count, you have to take the initiative and do something.



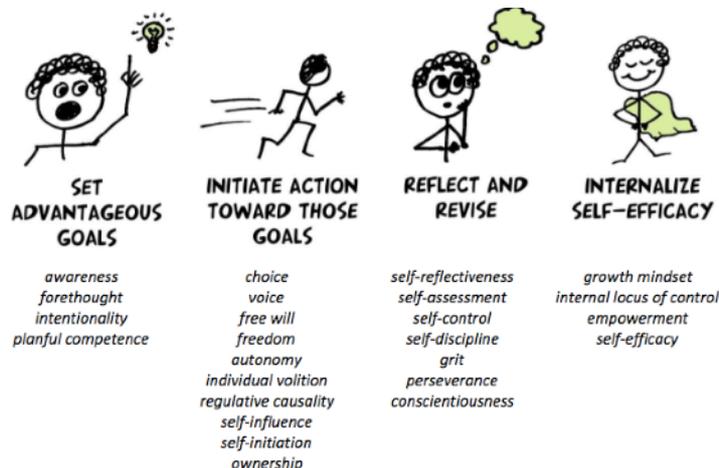
That is what we here, at WIS, try to in-still in our children; having an opinion and voicing your opinion in an appropriate manner, having a voice and letting your voice be heard. In that way, we can help make a change and we can make a difference, even if it is not immediately visible or not even visible for us directly.

Student Agency is becoming more and more prominent in current pedagogical discourse. It is part of our ACE Learning Path - to move towards giving students a voice and a choice in their learning: "Student agency refers to learning through activities that are meaningful and relevant to learners,

driven by their interests, and often self-initiated with appropriate guidance from teachers. To put it simply, student agency gives students voice and often, choice, in how they learn."

When the classroom is no longer directed by the teacher, but when students are able to drive their own learning, students can take charge of their learning and be part of the process of building their learning. This is a long process, but we certainly have started this process here at WIS by introducing SDL sessions in the Secondary School and also by letting students comment on decisions made that involve them.

Through different events and activities, we are introducing student agency into our teaching and learning practices in classes as well; what students learn then becomes relevant for them, connects with their interests and drives and motivates them to engage actively and positively in their own learning.



When that happens, young people and then later adults, learn to make intentional decisions and act with an awareness about themselves and their environment and surroundings. They stay lifelong learners and keep growing personally as well as professionally, because they have learnt to actively engage in their growth.

And then they will be able to see the purpose of voting in an election, of engaging in conversation efforts or in speaking out on unjust practices in their communities. We all need to take these active steps to involve ourselves in society. If the individual takes an

active role, changes will happen and a difference will be made. ([What do you mean when you say 'Student Agency'?](#))

Our MAP Growth tests will also become part of Student Agency. The results give students an opportunity to reflect on their progress and set goals for the next phase of their learning.

Please find the MAP Presentation from last night [HERE](#). And [HERE](#) is the link to the recording of the Parent Session on MAP from Thursday night. [HERE](#) is the transcript of the chat from Thursday night as well.

**Regards,
Maggie Reiff**

Namibian Apartheid-Era Movie

THE WHITE LINE - WIS Historians Watch and Reflect

A large group of WIS History students had a wonderful night last Friday evening at the Grove Mall theatre watching the [acclaimed Namibian-produced movie - THE WHITE LINE](#).



The unanimous feeling from the students was positive with these reactions being conveyed:

- ♦ "Since we studied apartheid in school, the personal experience of the painful consequences of the apartheid legislation on individual lives was powerful , personal and touching"
- ♦ "It was great to see Namibian actors & producers design this wonderful movie."
- ♦ "The inter-racial love story, the soundtrack, the cinematography were all 1st rate."
- ♦ "It is no wonder that the movie has won so many international awards."
- ♦ "The movie helped me to better understand how/why Namibian society is as it is now."



On Wednesday, 9th December, the last day of school before the holiday - WIS has tentatively arranged for the two stars of the show - Girley Charlene Jazama and Jan-Barend Scheepers - to be on campus for special face-to-face/whole class conversations about acting, about the experience of producing this movie and about their perception of life in the apartheid era.

Rick Fitzpatrick



Food Drive

Dear Parents/Guardian

Our cleaning team, security, and gardeners work tirelessly around the campus to keep our grounds clean and safe.

Without them, our grounds and surroundings would not be neat and safe.

As a school community, we want to reach out and make a difference by donating any canned or non-perishable food items (dried goods like pasta, etc..) and create a Christmas hamper to show our appreciation.

Some of the goods will also be donated to Havana Day Care Centre.

You are welcome to drop off goods at the Primary Art room or Primary Music room (number 13).

We would like to have all goods collected by Monday 7th of December so that we can finish the Hampers.

Let us make this special and do what our community does best, "Sharing is Caring".

Best Wishes

Michelle Du Preez

Sports Picture Request

We have a plethora of talented children in WIS who have been diligently training in a range of sports codes throughout the year. Please [email Mr. Tom](#) pictures of your child participating in their chosen sport that will be included in next week's Oryx.

WINDHOEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

FOOD DRIVE

Lets say a Special Thank You, to our Cleaning Staff Security, and Charity Organisations!

Please Donate any Canned Goods, or Non-Perishable Food in the Art or Music Room (13)! Thank you for making a difference!



Made with PosterMyWall.com

W.O.R.D.
Mathew Varghese Grade 8AJ reading to Grade 2 for WORD!



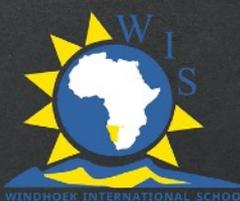


USED ITEMS NEEDED!

Do you have any of the following used items that you don't need anymore?

- glass jars (*jam jars*)
- second hand t-shirts
- magazines
- old shoes (*to be used as pots for planting*)
- objects for still life (*such as bottles, books, vase, statues*)

**Please donate them to the
WIS Primary School Art room!**



WIS 30th BIRTHDAY BASH

Dear All,

As we fast approach our 30th Birthday Bash on Friday, 4th December, we would like to inform you of a couple of things:

- BlikBeker Catering will be selling delicious food
- The PTA will be selling drinks throughout the night
- We have tables and chairs set up so that you can enjoy your meal while 90s music takes us back to bygone days
- There will be a prize for the best dressed 90s outfit!
- A photo-booth will be set up so that you can take memorable photos of an evening designed to celebrate WIS, but to also celebrate the community to which we all belong to

***Please remember that we will be taking temperatures and that you should wear a mask as we are still in Covid-19 regulations.*

Don't forget to sign up with this [link](#) to join us for a fun dance-filled evening.

We are busy with decorations so if you have any floppy disks, old vinyl records or CD's that you are not needing please send them our way so that we can recreate the amazing 90s!

The PTA has kindly requested that if you have empty 5L bottles you will bring them to the PTA hut as they'll be making ice buckets from them.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Beata and Jacky on behalf of the organising committee

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Back to the
90S!

WIS **30th** Birthday Bash!

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY GET TOGETHER!

DATE: 4 DECEMBER 2020 | TIME: 19:00 - 22:00

PLACE: WIS PE HALL | 90s THEME (OPTIONAL)

CASH BAR | FOOD WILL BE ON SALE

RSVP VIA THE SIGN-UP SHEET!

ADULTS ONLY!
LIMITED 200 SIGN-UPS



Christmas for Critters Shoebox Drive

The SPCA Windhoek would like to invite you to take part in this inspiring community initiative.

Our aim is to collect Christmas gifts for abandoned animals and as a positive result this project ultimately helps parents to teach their own children the joy of giving!

HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS FOR CRITTERS SHOEBOX:

- 1. FIND AN EMPTY SHOE BOX**
We all have empty shoeboxes around the house or know someone who can give us one. Shoe stores usually have empty boxes to give away.
- 2. FILL IT WITH GOODIES**
The following items are kindly requested:
 - * Put N\$100 in cash in the box **PLUS**
 - * **For our Cats:** Pampers/ Whiskas tin/ pouch food
 - * **For our Dogs:** tin or small bag of dog food
 - * **For our small Critters:** Bag of food or snacks
 - ** **Optional: toy/ collar lead/ brush, etc**
- 3. DECORATE THE BOX:**
Wrap/ decorate the shoebox (draw on it, paint on it, cut out pictures, put stickers on it) the sky is the limit here!
- 4. LABEL YOUR BOX:**
Clearly write cat or dog, depending on the gift of your choice.
- 5. WHERE TO TAKE YOUR BOX?**
SPCA Windhoek, Robert Mugabe Avenue
Put it under our Christmas tree and have your photo taken!

OUR BANK DETAILS:
 First National Bank
 Branch: Old Power Station
 Code: 281174
 Current Account
 Account Number:
 62247995915

OR

If you don't have time to make a box, why not donate a bag of DRY DOG/CAT FOOD or make an EFT referencing 'Christmas for Critters'.

Closing date: 23 December 2020
 Email: info@spcawindhoek.org.na

Is N\$100 too much?
 Club together with friends and make a box **OR** put in whatever you can afford!

Target: 300 boxes

Merry Christmas!